1. A method of continuously producing a succession of elongated siding panels each having a series of longitudinally spaced and integrally connected separate shingle panels, a substantially straight and continuous hook-shaped lower portion and a continuous folded upper portion defining a double wall mounting flange above a groove for receiving the lower portion of an adjacent panel, the method comprising the steps of extruding a continuous sheet of heated plastics material with a generally uniform thickness and having longitudinal upper and lower portions integrally connected by a longitudinal intermediate portion, directing the sheet of heated material onto a moving run of a flexible endless conveyor having a continuous series of separate mold plates defining cavities for receiving the upper portion, intermediate portion and lower portion of the sheet, progressively sucking the upper portion, intermediate portion and lower portion of the sheet into the cavities of the mold plates with a vacuum applied to the mold plates as the plates are moving for progressively forming the profiles of the shingle panels and the upper and lower portions of the siding panels, progressively trimming the upper and lower portions of the sheet, progressively re-heating a longitudinal section of the upper portion of the sheet, progressively folding over the upper portion of the sheet at the reheated section to form the continuous mounting flanges and grooves of the panels, and cutting the sheet at longitudinally spaced intervals to produce the succession of the elongated siding panels.

2. A method as defined in claim 1 and including the steps of forming each of the mold plates in at least three mold sections including a first end section for forming the profile of the lower portion of the sheet, a second end section for forming the profile of the upper portion of the sheet, and a third intermediate section for forming the profile of the intermediate portion of the sheet, and attaching the mold sections for each mold plate to a corresponding conveyor slat of the endless conveyor.

3. A method as defined in claim 1 and including the step of forming the mold plates of aluminum for conducting heat quickly from the sheet of heated plastics material.

4. A method of continuously producing a succession of elongated siding panels each having a series of longitudinally spaced and integrally connected separate shingle panels with a hook-shaped lower portion and an upper portion defining a mounting flange and a groove for receiving the lower portion of a vertically overlapping panel, the method comprising the steps of extruding a continuous sheet of heated plastics material with a generally uniform thickness and having longitudinal upper and lower portions integrally connected by a longitudinal intermediate portion, directing the sheet of heated material onto a series of rigid mold plates carried by an upper run of an endless conveyor and defining shingle cavities and undercut cavities, progressively vacuum-forming the sheet into the shingle cavities and undercut cavities of the mold plates by creating a vacuum within the cavities while the mold plates are moving on the upper run of the endless conveyor, successively inserting a traveling forming plug into the undercut cavities as the sheet is moving and being vacuum-formed into the undercut cavities for progressively forming a series of integrally connected siding panels, and cutting the sheet at longitudinally spaced intervals to produce the succession of separate elongated siding panels.

5. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein a lower portion of the sheet is progressively vacuum-formed into the undercut cavities within the mold plates and a corresponding traveling forming plug is successively inserted as the mold plates are moving on the upper run of the conveyor to form the hook-shaped lower portions of the shingle panels

6. A method as defined in claim 5 wherein the upper portion of the sheet is progressively vacuum-formed into the undercut cavities within the mold plates and a corresponding traveling forming plug is successively inserted as the mold plates are moving on the upper run of the conveyor to form the grooves within the shingle panels.

7. A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the undercut cavities are formed within the upper and lower portions of the sheet, and all of the undercut cavities are formed with parallel straight edge engaging surfaces.

8. A method as defined in claim 7 wherein a variety of different shingle panels are formed with different shingle appearances, and the vertical distance between the straight edge engaging surfaces of each shingle panel is the same for all of the different shingle panels.

9. Apparatus for continuously producing a succession of separate elongated siding panels each having a series of longitudinally spaced and integrally connected separate shingle panels with a hook-shaped lower portion and an upper portion defining a mounting flange and a groove for receiving the lower portion of a vertically overlapping panel, said apparatus comprising an endless conveyor supporting a continuous series of rigid mold plates defining shingle cavities and undercut cavities, a die for extruding a continuous sheet of heated plastics material with a generally uniform thickness and with longitudinal upper and lower portions integrally connected by a longitudinal intermediate portion, a guide directing the sheet of heated material onto said mold plates as the mold plates form a moving upper run of said conveyor, said mold plates having vacuum passages for progressively vacuum-forming the sheet into the shingle cavities and the undercut cavities of the mold plates by creating a vacuum within the cavities while the mold plates are moving on said upper run of said endless conveyor, and a reciprocating and traveling forming plug positioned for successively inserting into said undercut cavities as the sheet is moving and being vacuum formed into said undercut cavities for progressively forming a series of integrally connected siding panels.

10. Apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein each of said mold plates has upper and lower undercut cavities into which the upper and lower portions of the sheet are progressively vacuum-formed as the mold plates are moving on said upper run of said conveyor, and reciprocating and traveling forming plugs are positioned for inserting the upper and lower portions of the sheet into said cavities as the sheet is moving with said mold plates on said upper run of said conveyor.

11. Apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein each of said mold plates is formed of aluminum for conducting heat quickly from the sheet of heated plastics material.

12. Apparatus as defined in claim 9 and including a corresponding conveyor slat attached to each of said mold plates on said endless conveyor, and elongated parallel spaced guide tracks receiving said conveyor slats.

13. A series of elongated siding panels each having a mounting flange and a series of longitudinally spaced and integrally connected separate shingle panels, each of said shingle panels having a hook-shaped lower portion and an upper portion with an undercut groove for receiving the lower portion of a vertically overlapping panel, said shingle panels of each said siding panel having a different configuration and a different appearance than said shingle panels of each of the other said siding panels, said hook-shaped lower portion of each said shingle panel having a straight edge engaging surface, said undercut groove of each of said shingle panel having a straight edge engaging surface, and the vertical distance between said straight edge engaging surfaces of each said shingle panel being the same for all of said shingle panels of all of said siding panels.